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The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary, U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to request that you release to the public all the documents associated with the "Future of Iraq Project," an initiative established by the Department of State to prepare for the challenges associated with the aftermath of military action in Iraq.

According to media reports, the "Future of Iraq Project" began in the spring of 2002 and included as many as 200 Iraqi exiles who participated in about a dozen working groups to plan for post-invasion needs such as maintaining law and order and ensuring that oil, electricity, and water continued to flow. However, it is my understanding that in January 2003, the White House ended the project.

I believe that the situation in Iraq after the conclusion of major combat operations may have been vastly improved had the work conducted by the Department of State been utilized by the Pentagon in its planning. Regardless of jurisdictional conflicts that may occur within the executive branch, it is imperative when preparing for this type of military action that all departments and agencies associated with that action are involved in the planning and preparation. Now with the benefit of hindsight, Congress and professional planners could evaluate the work of these task forces and whether or not they did a good job of anticipating the requirements of post-war management of the Iraq economy and government services.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you release all information associated with the "Future of Iraq Project" to both Congress and the public so that we can learn from the mistakes made in the lack of post-war planning in Iraq and ensure that they do not happen again.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress